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IHC-D-113.4/27
10 December 1970

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD
INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION HANDLING COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM FOR: IHC Members

SUBJECT: COINS Experiment

Attached for your information is a copy of a letter from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Director of NSA on the subject of CIA's participation in the COINS Experiment. Implementation aspects will be discussed at IHC on 16 December 1970.



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Executive Secretary

Attachment: a/s

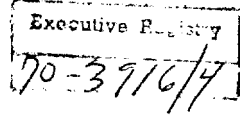
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7 DEC 1970

Vice Admiral Noel Gayler, USN
Director, National Security Agency
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

Dear Noel:

In my letter to you of 5 August 1970 on the subject of CIA participation in COINS, I mentioned that a concerted effort would be made to establish an appropriate course for CIA to follow in the future. An extensive re-examination has been completed.

As a result of this latest study, and taking into account also other recent in-depth COINS studies, it was concluded that there is neither a sufficient current nor near-term CIA requirement, nor unique experimental expectation from the present level of participation in a network of computers, to justify the manpower and machine costs involved. I, therefore, have directed that the level of CIA participation in COINS be brought into closer balance with current and future needs.

I understand and support the need for DoD components to exchange and assess certain data rapidly in a COINS-like system. CIA has benefited from DoD file building in this area, but its needs are satisfied largely by telephone or by getting published and magnetic tape copies of the DoD product.

CIA will retain a capability to access COINS files located externally by maintaining a line, or lines, directly to the network, as the State Department and NIC do now. Copies of desired CIA machine files will be provided to the system and will be maintained according to agreed upon schedules. Also, I expect resolution by the

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Community of the problems which have been preventing the full participation of NPIC in the COINS network. NPIC's central role in providing a national intelligence data base has already been decided; I feel that it would be desirable to make that data base more readily available to Community users through a computer-supported remote query system.

Since a COINS-like capability is but one of several ways of exchanging information, I have directed that the Information Handling Committee intensify its efforts toward the development and improvement of the Community Information Handling System. Your representatives on the various IHC committees and subcommittees have been very helpful and are supporting fully the work now going on. I appreciate also the valuable contribution which your development of COINS has made to Community knowledge in information handling.

Sincerely,

~~Es~~ Richard Helms

Richard Helms
Director

NIPE [] eh(25 Nov 70)

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